

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 180835 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1812

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8742

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-17 MAY 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON MAY 17 AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0130

3. O. 11652:/ F GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 17 MAY 1973

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 17 MAY. THERE WERE 14 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE ( ABF), FIVE GROUND CONTACTS, FIVE MINE INCIDENTS AND ONE KIDNAPPING. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE TWO FRIENDLY KILLED, SIX WOUNDED, AND THREE VC/ NVA KILLED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 36 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE. NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED. MINING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN BIEN HOA, HAU NGHIA AND BINH DUONG PROVINCES. TWO FARMERS WERE KILLED BY MINES WHILE WORKING IN THEIR FIELDS AND FIVE RF/ PF WERE WOUNDED WHILE ON SECURITY OPERATIONS. OF THE NINE FRIENDLY CASUALTIES REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD, SEVEN WERE FROM MINES. AT APPROXIMATELY 0010 HOURS 16 MAY THE VC KIDNAPED A FORMER RALLIER FROM HIS

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HOME 4 KMS NORTHWEST OF BAO TRAI CITY, HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. MINOR ABF AND LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN BINH DUONG, TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, PHUOC LONG, LONG KHANH AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES. TOTAL CASUALTIES FROM THESE INCIDENTS WERE ONE FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND THREE VC/ NVA KILLED.

2. CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS OF REGION V ICCS RESIDENT IN BIEN HOA HAVE ATTACKED THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND THE 8 TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE 18 TH ARVN DIVISION HELD YESTERDAY IN BIEN HOA. CANDEL HEAD COLONEL MORROW TOLD CONGEN THAT HE HAD WORDS WITH THE HEADS OF THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS OVER WHAT HE CALLED " RUDE" BEHAVIOR. MORROW SAID THAT BOTH DELEGATIONS USED " LAME" EXCUSES TO GET OUT OF ATTENDINLWM MORROW WAS UPSET BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO BOW OUT, CONTENDING THAT PRESSING BUSINESS IN SAIGON INTERVENED. INDODEL HEAD TOLD US THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE A STANDING POLICY OF NOT ATTENDING FUNCTIONS ORGANIZED BY GVN MILITARY UNITS.

3. REGION V ICCS CANADIAN MEMBERS ARE PREDICTING THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE BEYOND THE END OF THE 60- DAY LOOK- SEE PERIOD. SEVERAL CANADIANS HAVE TOLD US IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THEY EXPECT AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OTTAWA BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK ADVISING THAT CANADA WILL CONTINUE WITH A REVIEW EACH SUCCEEDING 30 DAYS.

RM CANADIAN SOURCES ON THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM COMPLAIN THAT THE GVN LIAISON OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN PROMPTING WITNESSES IN A FAIRLY OBVIOUS WAY, IN AN EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THEY TELL A CONSISTENT STORY. THE CANADIANS PREFER NATURAL TESTIMONY, EVEN IF THIS ALLOWS THE HUNGARIANS TO USE THEIR COURTROOM CROSS- EXAMINATION TACTICS.

5. ON ONE RECENT OCCASION, THE BEN CAT POLES DECLARED THEY WOULD NOT GO ON AN INVESTIGATION UNLESS THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A PRG LIAISON OFFICER. THE GVN, FED UP FOR ONCE, THEREUPON ANNOUNCED THAT THE POLES COULD POSTPONE THEIR NEXT TRIP TO THE MARKET UNTIL THEY HAD A PRG ESCORT.

6. A HIGH- RANKING III CORPS SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE THREE  
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PROVINCE CHIEFS RUMORED TO BE REPLACED ARE  
MR III ARE COL. YEM  
OF PHUOC LONG, COL. CUA OF BINH DUONG, AND COL. THIEN OF TAY NINH. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, CUA HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION BY A NUMBER OF BINH DUONG RESIDENTS, BUT MAY YET AVOID THE AXE DUE TO HIS FERVENT SUPPORTN  
F THE DEMOCRACY PARTY.

WALKINSHAB QUNUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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